

SASKATCHEWAN
WETLAND
CONSERVATION
CORPORATION



Saskatchewan
Wetland
Conservation
Corporation



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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

2



Regina, Saskatchewan

To Her Honour
The Honourable
Sylvia O. Fedoruk,
O.C., S.O.M.
Lieutenant Governor
of the Province
of Saskatchewan

Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report of the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation for the period ending December 31, 1990, including financial statements for the year duly certified by the corporation's auditor, in a form approved by Treasury Board, all in accordance with the Crown Corporation Act 1978.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorne Kopelchuk,
Minister Responsible for the
Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation



I am proud to report that in its first year of operation the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation has begun fulfilling its unique role in the recovery of waterfowl and the conservation of the province's soil and

water resources.

Created January 10, 1990 to co-ordinate provincial activities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation has helped maintain the province's leading role in this international program. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an agreement among Canada, the United States and Mexico to preserve wetlands and restore waterfowl populations, took its first step at the Quill Lakes Project in Wadena. The Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation was the first provincial co-ordinating agency formed to implement the Plan.

The province's participation in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan is an investment that will provide both short- and long-term returns. For every dollar invested by Saskatchewan, the federal governments of the United States and Canada, state governments, and non-government organizations contribute \$9. Over the 15-year agreement the province's \$49 million expenditure will attract an additional \$439 million from outside agencies. These funds will help stimulate the provincial economy, particularly in rural

Saskatchewan, and will benefit both agriculture and wildlife for future generations.

Most of the money will go directly to farmers to encourage sound land-use practices. All farming techniques encouraged through the Plan are proven soil conservation measures that maintain the health of the soil — the foundation of the agriculture industry. These same farming practices leave protective cover on the ground during waterfowl nesting periods and, through agreement with landowners, preserve wetlands. By maintaining wetlands and protective cover on surrounding uplands, waterfowl and a wide variety of other wildlife will benefit.

The policies of the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan are examples of the type of sustainable development being demanded by increasingly environmentally aware government, private citizens and industry.

By establishing partnerships with agriculture and wildlife organizations, examining the whole landscape when finding solutions to our environmental challenges, and increasing the incentive to protect and improve the quality of our air, water and soils, the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation is playing an important role in the provincial landscape.

Douglas Cressman

Chairman of the Board

Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation



It has been an exciting year for all of us at the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation. Formed to co-ordinate Saskatchewan activities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP),

the corporation has established a small central office in Regina, as well as NAWMP area offices in Humboldt and Saskatoon to accompany the original NAWMP office opened in Wadena in 1988. Area offices are jointly staffed by Ducks Unlimited Canada and Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation personnel.

Saskatchewan is the primary nesting ground for one-quarter of the continent's ducks, including one-third of its mallards. In light of this, the province is critical to the success of the NAWMP. Most waterfowl in the province are dependent upon small wetland complexes on privately owned land in southern Saskatchewan, so NAWMP programs are designed to assist farmers in using agricultural practices that create or maintain upland nesting areas and encourage the maintenance of wetlands for waterfowl. This helps conserve the soil and benefits waterfowl and other wildlife, including some rare and endangered species.

Most of the \$488 million to be spent in Saskatchewan will be used to encourage the use of environmentally-friendly agricultural practices. Activities are initially being concentrated in seven key areas

comprised of 120 rural municipalities with the most potential to improve waterfowl production. However, programs will eventually be active throughout southern Saskatchewan.

SWCC's success in co-ordinating NAWMP programs is due in large part to the leadership of its Board of Directors. Our directors, representing a variety of government and non-government wildlife and agricultural interests, have designed our corporation's policies and procedures and set an example of creativity for the entire corporation. We are pleased to have their guidance and support.

By working with representatives from provincial government and non-government agencies, corporation staff are helping to develop policies and programs that integrate wildlife habitat, environmental and agricultural objectives. Corporation staff are also responsible for evaluating the biological success of NAWMP programs, financial administration, and communication.

To date, NAWMP activities in Saskatchewan are comprised of four major programs: Land Management Options (Prairie Care), Heritage Marshes, Nest Baskets, and Crop Damage Prevention.

Successful implementation of these programs is achieved only through the assistance and co-operation of NAWMP member organizations. These organizations include the Canadian Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources, Saskatchewan Rural Development, Saskatchewan Water Corporation, Saskatchewan Natural History Society, Saskatchewan Association of

Rural Municipalities, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and Wildlife Habitat Canada. Our programs could not succeed without the co-operation of these agencies.

We at the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation are confident this holistic approach to landscape management and program development will produce great strides in conservation during the

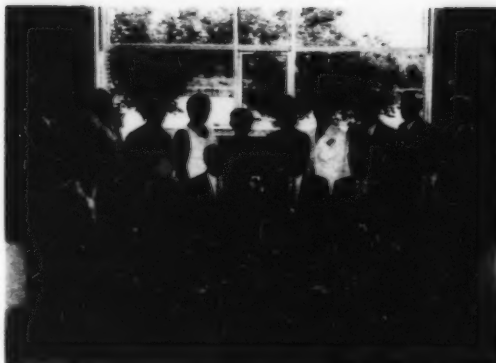
1990's. We are excited by the prospects ahead and look forward to making these plans reality.



Dennis Sherratt

General Manager

Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation



The Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation board of directors combines agriculture, wildlife, rural development and conservation interests from national and provincial government and non-government organizations, as well as private citizens, to provide a broad perspective over the corporation's activities.

Board members are: (Back row L-R) Douglas Chekay, Ed Begin, Jim Jowsey, Kathy Kaminski, Betty Collins, Roxanne Schindel, Wilma Shoemaker, Al Veroba, Pat Nelson, Gerald McKeating.

(Front row) Dennis Webster, Rod Fowler, Douglas Cressman, David Nederhoff, David Neave, Dennis Sherratt.

MR. DOUGLAS CRESSMAN (Chairman), Deputy Minister, Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources

MR. DOUGLAS CHEKAY (Vice-Chairman), Provincial Manager, Ducks Unlimited Canada

MR. ED BEGIN, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation

MS. BETTY COLLINS, Director, Strategic Planning Branch, Saskatchewan Environment and Public Safety

MR. ROD FOWLER, National Operations Manager, Ducks Unlimited Canada

DR. JIM JOWSEY, Saskatchewan Natural History Society

MS. KATHY KAMINSKI, Member at Large

MR. GERALD MCKEATING, Head, Habitat Conservation, Canadian Wildlife Service

MR. DAVID NEAVE, Executive Director, Wildlife Habitat Canada

MR. DAVID NEDERHOFF, Director, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

MR. PAT NELSON, Saskatoon Regional Director, Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources

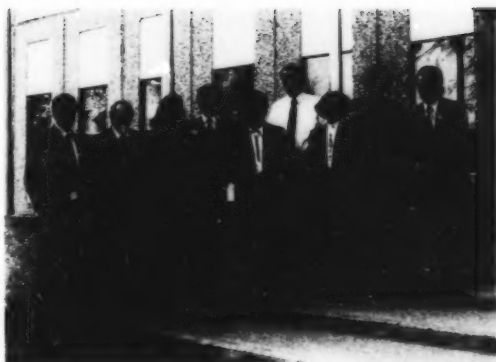
MS. ROXANNE SCHINDEL, Member at Large

MR. DENNIS SHERRATT, General Manager, Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation

MS. WILMA SHOEMAKER, Member at Large

MR. AL VEROBA, Vice-President of Operations, Saskatchewan Water Corporation

MR. DENNIS WEBSTER, Special Projects, Saskatchewan Rural Development



Staff members are: (L-R) Dave Phillips, Dennis Sherratt, Sharon Rodenbush, Greg Euteneier, Gordon Demoskoff, Rick Bates, Linda McKay, Darcee Sazynski, Dave Duncan



Janet Kristjanson,
Wadena



Linda Pryce,
Saskatoon



Kelly Wittke,
Humboldt

DENNIS SHERRATT, General Manager

RICK BATES, Manager, Communications

GORDON DEMOSKOFF, Manager, Program Development

DAVID DUNCAN, Manager, Biological Services

JANET KRISTJANSON, Office Administrator,

Wadena Area NAWMP Office

LINDA MCKAY, Controller

LINDA PRYCE, Office Administrator,

Saskatoon Area NAWMP Office

DARCEE SAZYSKI, Office Administrator

KELLY WITTKKE, Office Administrator,

Humboldt Area NAWMP Office

Casual

GREG EUTENEIER, Office Assistant

JOANN MAHLUM, Clerical Support

DAVE PHILLIPS, Policy Analyst

SHARON RODENBUSH, Communications Officer

Funding partners in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan include: Government of Saskatchewan, Government of Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, and state, federal and private organizations in the United States.

SASKATCHEWAN PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN THE NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN (NAWMP) BECAUSE OUR PROVINCE IS CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF NORTH AMERICA'S MALLARD BREEDING POPULATION. THE PROVINCIAL OBJECTIVE IS TO ATTAIN THREE MILLION BREEDING MALLARDS IN SOUTHERN SASKATCHEWAN BY THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT.

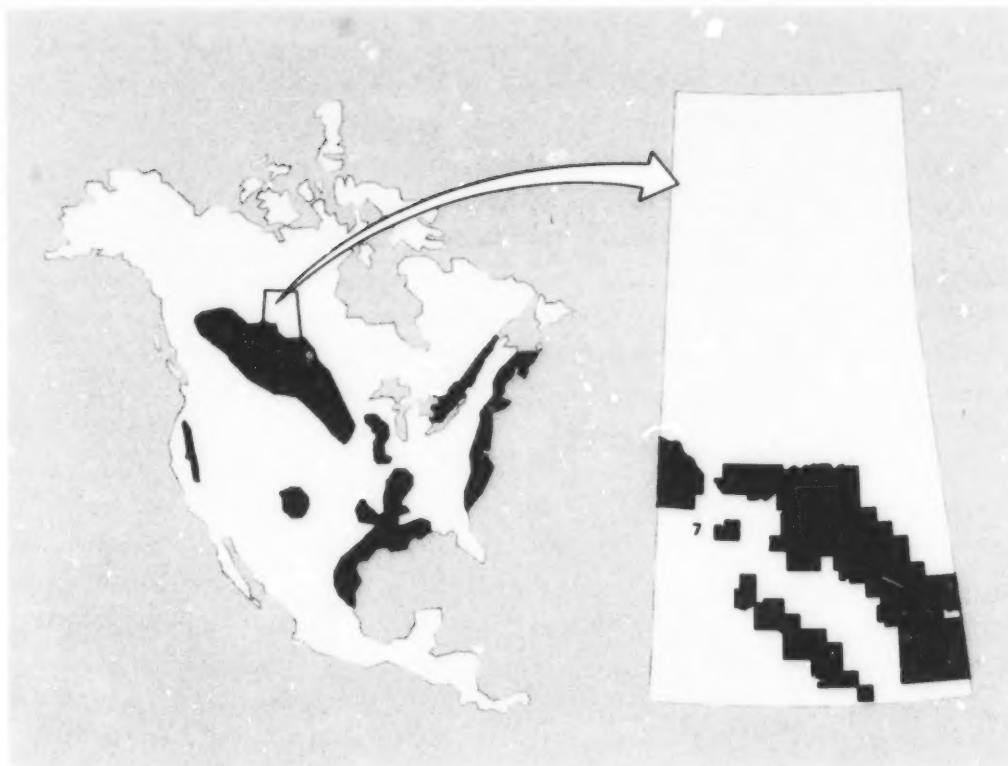
Although the NAWMP is designed to help waterfowl, it also assists in addressing land-use problems that affect the whole environment, as farming practices that maintain, develop and enhance upland nesting cover are also compatible with soil and water conservation.

Waterfowl population goals will be reached through habitat management in seven key areas. These areas include the aspen parkland (Cut Knife Uplands, Thickwood Hills, Allan/Tiger/Minichinas Hills, Quill Lakes/Touchwood/Beaver Hills, Pheasant Hills, Moose Mountain Uplands) and grasslands (Missouri Coteau), and represent the areas of highest potential for waterfowl production in



Saskatchewan 15-Year Budget

Land Lease/Purchase	67.3%
Large Marshes	12.4%
Nesting Cover and Structures	8.0%
Crop Damage Control	6.7%
Conservation Farming Demonstrations	2.4%
Evaluation	1.6%
Communication	0.9%
Policy Development and Rationalization	0.7%



North American Waterfowl Management Plan programs in Saskatchewan are presently targeted at seven key areas with the highest potential for waterfowl production.

- 1 Moose Mountain Uplands
- 2 Pheasant Hills
- 3 Quill Lakes-Touchwood Beaver Hills
- 4 Allan/Tiger/Minichinas Hills
- 5 Thickwood Hills
- 6 Cut Knife Uplands
- 7 Missouri Coteau

Saskatchewan. To date, NAWMP activities in the province are represented in four major programs: Land Management Options (Prairie Care), Large Marshes (Heritage Marshes), Nest Baskets and Crop Damage Prevention.

PRAIRIE CARE

In 1990 the Prairie Care name was adopted for the land management options of Saskatchewan's NAWMP Implementation Strategy.

Much of this year's activity involved gearing up for

full-scale program delivery in 1991. Significant progress was made by both Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation in staffing, establishing new offices and developing new program delivery methods.

Ducks Unlimited, a program delivery agency for the province, signed 196 program participants in 1990. A total of 112 of these moved all or part way to completion over the past year. Staff were most effective in delivery of the purchase or lease of cultivated land, conversion and delayed hay cut, and the demonstra-

By storing and slowly releasing water, filtering farm chemicals from run-off and harbouring wildlife, wetlands play vital roles in maintaining the health of Saskatchewan's agriculture and wildlife-related industries.



tion options. Interest in the interpothole habitat restoration option was lower than expected; however, new methods of delivery are expected to increase program activity in 1991.

The delayed hay cut option on existing hay fields hasn't attracted as much interest as expected; however, the conversion and delayed hay cut has been popular. The conversion assistance offered is attractive to producers and converting marginal cultivated acres provides soil conservation benefits. It is expected program uptake will continue to be greater for the conversion and delayed hay cut option than for delayed hay cut on existing hay fields.

Developing habitat was a major activity in 1990. A total of 3,319 acres were seeded to permanent cover under the Prairie Care program. In addition, 2,750 acres were seeded to grass under the Quill Lakes First Step Project.

The Prairie Care Land Bid Pilot Project was developed in 1990 to test new methods of delivering lease options. A communications program using mass media advertising, direct mail and consultative meetings promoted the program. An average of 26 farmers from each RM responded and many have applied to the program. The approach showed that landowner negotiations can be accomplished with a minimum of staff time through the use of advertising and focussed program delivery.

Land Lease

Pastures, hayland or cultivated land may be leased and managed for waterfowl habitat, which gives the landowner a chance to predetermine income from a specific parcel of land for a decade or longer. An arrangement between the delivery agency and the landowner stipulates the compensation schedule along with a management plan specifically tailored to each land parcel.

Delayed Hay Cut

Upland nesting waterfowl are attracted to the excellent cover available in hayfields, but during normal haying operations many of the nests are destroyed. Prairie Care offers producers monetary compensation to delay hay cut until mid-July, which improves nesting success rates. Compensation is based on the loss of feed value caused by delaying the hay cut. In addition, the Prairie Care program offers assistance to convert cultivated land into hayfields for this option.

Grazing Systems

Range management systems can improve livestock production and range conditions in addition to providing significant benefits to wildlife. The grazing systems program offers technical and financial assistance to plan and develop grazing systems on land close to wetlands.

Land Purchase

Land especially suited to wildlife habitat may be purchased at fair market value. Purchase is based on, but not limited to, marginal agricultural land.



A PROUD MALLARD HEN. SASKATCHEWAN PRODUCES ONE-THIRD OF NORTH AMERICA'S WATERFOWL, BUT LOSS OF WETLANDS AND UPLAND NESTING AREAS THROUGH DROUGHT AND INCREASED CULTIVATION HAVE PRODUCED A DROP IN DUCK NUMBERS FROM 11 MILLION TO THREE MILLION IN 15 YEARS.

Healthy wetlands contribute to soil and water conservation which, in turn, benefit cash crops such as wheat.

Stubble Mulch Fallow

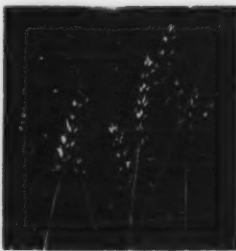
Stubble mulching provides landowners with an alternative to conventional summerfallow tillage which leaves minimal crop residue on the land. An under-cutting implement severs weeds below the surface but leaves the dead plant standing. This provides for better moisture retention, erosion control and waterfowl nesting cover.

Partial Chemical Fallow

By replacing conventional summerfallow tillage with weed control by chemicals, and delaying tillage until mid-July, the standing dead vegetation prevents soil erosion, traps moisture and provides cover for waterfowl. Herbicide and application costs are shared by the NAWMP and the landowner.

Direct Seeding

Direct seeding involves seeding spring or fall crops



into standing stubble with minimal soil disturbance. Weeds are controlled using herbicides. Standing stubble improves soil moisture retention, protects the

soil surface from erosion and provides nesting habitat for waterfowl. Early spring growth of fall seeded crops also offers improved nesting habitat in surrounding fallow fields.

Underseed Clover

Underseed clover, or green manuring as it is more

commonly called, involves seeding a legume such as sweet clover with a cereal grain. The producer harvests the cereal crop during the first year, and cuts (as seed or forage) or tills the legume crop for green manure the second or fallow year. The cut or plough down of the legume crop is delayed until after July 15th to provide maximum nesting cover for waterfowl.

Interpothole Restoration

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan encourages the conversion to permanent nesting cover of cultivated land close to wetlands and in odd-shaped pothole areas that are inconvenient to cultivate. These areas are often affected by salinity and erosion. This practice helps retain wetland complexes and upland habitat.

Grass Seed Production

Grass seed production benefits the land through soil conservation and provides nesting cover for waterfowl and other bird species. The grass crop is shared on a one-third NAWMP, two-thirds landowner basis. Alternatively, the Plan may provide landowners with cash payments to establish and produce seed.

NEST BASKET PROGRAM

Operated by the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, the Nest Basket Program invites donations toward the placement of man-made baskets that aid in duck nesting success. These nesting structures protect waterfowl from skunks, foxes, and other predators.

On June 2, 1990, the balance of the original 1,500 nest baskets was installed throughout the Touchwood/

Beaver Hills area. During a very successful day-long "bee", 478 baskets were placed with volunteer assistance from members of the Foam Lake, Touchwood, Beaver Hills, Parkland, Willowbrook, Whitesand and Mallard wildlife federation branches.

HERITAGE MARSH PROGRAM

Saskatchewan's Heritage Marsh Program serves as a



model of how government, conservation groups, and the agricultural community can co-operate to preserve wetlands for all wildlife. The Third Generation Heritage Marsh Program is working to preserve wetlands larger than 500 acres.

Twelve were identified in the Third Generation Agreement and are to be included in the NAWMP if developed. Planning, and in some cases development, has been undertaken for the following Heritage Marshes: Thunder Creek, Luck Lake, Quill Lake and Sucker Lakes Complex. The remaining potential marshes include: Francis Lake, Kisbey Flats, Duck Lake, Twelve Mile Lake, Wood River Delta, Witchekan-Keg Lakes, Scentgrass/Moore Lakes, and Kipling Marsh.

Thunder Creek Marshes

Engineering design and land negotiation continued throughout 1990 in an effort to secure, develop and

enhance 11,800 acres of wetland and 3,300 acres of upland. Production, molting and spring and fall waterfowl staging habitat will be enhanced through the provision of upland nesting cover, a permanent freshwater supply and water level management.

This project forms an extension to the Riverhurst Irrigation Project, an agricultural development under the Government of Canada/Saskatchewan Riverhurst Irrigation Project. Total development cost of the Thunder Creek Marsh is projected at \$8 million.

Sucker Lakes Complex

During 1990, engineering design and land negotiations for the Sucker Lakes Complex were completed. The project, under a 30-year agreement, will employ water management plus the lease of upland nesting cover to secure, develop and enhance 2,300 acres of wetlands and 800 acres of uplands. Ducks Unlimited Canada signed a 10-year lease involving 800 acres of uplands.

Luck Lake

On June 11, 1990, Luck Lake was dedicated as a Saskatchewan Heritage Marsh. Over 400 people joined Premier Grant Devine at the dedication ceremony. Proposed as a \$4.8 million expenditure, the project includes a substantial cost-share with Saskatchewan Water Corporation for engineering required to divert water to Luck Lake and adjoining irrigation developments.

Luck Lake encompasses 6,064 acres of wetland and



Most programs under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in Saskatchewan are designed to maintain or increase the amount of protective cover available for waterfowl, such as these two black-crowned night herons, during the May to mid-July nesting period.

Teaming with activity, wetlands provide homes for a variety of plants, insects, birds and animals, including 70 per cent of the province's endangered species.



THROUGH THE NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN CROP DAMAGE PREVENTION AND COMPENSATION PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN IMPROVED TO PROTECT LANDOWNERS FROM INCREASED WATERFOWL NUMBERS.

960 acres of upland. Production, molting and spring and fall waterfowl staging habitat will be enhanced through the creation of a permanent freshwater supply, water level management, provision of upland nesting cover and a waterfowl crop damage prevention program. From initiation of construction by Ducks Unlimited Canada in 1987 to present, expenditures are \$3.5 million.

Quill Lakes — Mount Hope Complex

Encompassing a total area of 207,949 acres of wetland and upland, Quill Lakes — Mount Hope Complex is under development as both a Heritage Marsh and a component of the Quill Lakes First Step Project. Preliminary estimates for development are \$2.4 million, of which \$800,000 has been spent to secure 1,722 acres of uplands and 2,563 acres of wetlands.

In 1990, Ducks Unlimited Canada spent \$120,000 to improve water controls on the existing projects of Level, Kandahar and Havers. Together, these encompass 1,146 acres of wetlands. Topographic surveys and

engineering design are underway for the Mount Hope portion.

CROP DAMAGE PREVENTION

Funding through the North American Waterfowl Management Plan contributes in large part to the federal-provincial waterfowl crop damage prevention programs. In areas with severe annual damage, the program operates feeding stations and lure crops, which entice waterfowl away from field crops and onto "protected" areas where they can not cause damage. Lure crops and feeding stations are provided to reduce damage by geese, ducks or sandhill cranes and work well where waterfowl damage is high, particularly in the vicinity of large lakes and wetland complexes where waterfowl congregate.

Co-ordinated through the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation and implemented by Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources, compensation for crop depredation is advancing in tandem with habitat securement for waterfowl production.



THE DECLINE IN WATERFOWL NUMBERS REFLECTS A LOSS OF WETLANDS NOW ESTIMATED AT OVER 40 PER CENT IN SASKATCHEWAN. HALF OF THOSE THAT REMAIN ARE BEING DISTURBED BY DRAINING, CULTIVATION OR BURNING.

NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTIVITIES LINK WILDLIFE AND AGRICULTURE GROUPS, POLICIES AND LAND-USE PRACTICES INTO AN INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND HABITAT CONSERVATION.

To accomplish these goals, a basic tenet of North American Waterfowl Management Plan activities in Saskatchewan is that they are co-operative in nature. Policies established in the boardrooms of co-operating agencies and farming practices encouraged for use in the field must be practical and synchronized to achieve NAWMP goals. The programming must be carefully constructed with input from all participants.

The Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation maintains contact with diverse government and non-government agencies to develop sound land and water management policies and practices that benefit all segments of society. During the past year discussions were held with Saskatchewan Water Corporation, Rural Development and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration on existing policies that impact the continental waterfowl resource. This partnership nature of provincial NAWMP activities will be expanded in the future by bringing on board new co-operating agencies and expanding the roles of some existing partners.

Preliminary work was also started on developing a wetland policy for the province.

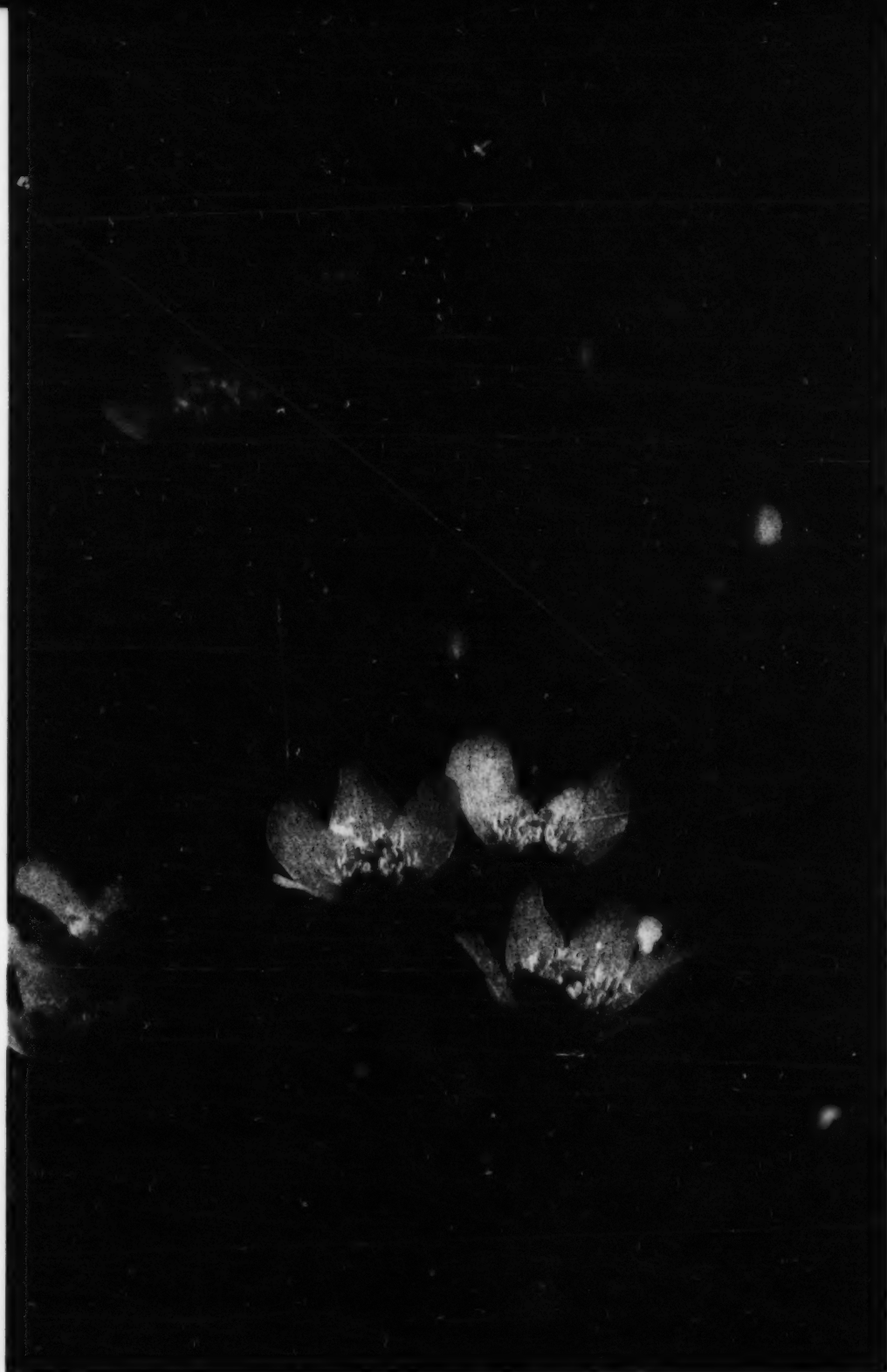
In 1990, a payment of \$524,087 to Ducks Unlimited Canada, a program delivery agency in Saskatchewan, was made with funds supplied to the corporation by the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada. NAWMP Prairie Care program activities in Saskatchewan were concentrated in the Quill Lakes/

Touchwood/Beaver Hills project area. Ducks Unlimited Canada, the delivery agency of a variety of Prairie Care programs in the province, also started work in the Allan/Tiger/Minichinas Hills area. In addition, Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources' Prairie Pothole Project in southeast Saskatchewan was endorsed as a NAWMP project and is now under the wing of the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation.

The Nest Basket Program operated by the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation met its goal of 1500 nest baskets in the Quill Lakes area and gained a great deal of publicity for the program when Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn visited the Quill Lakes Project and installed a basket in the Milligan project. The Nest Basket Program will eventually be expanded to all program areas.

An agreement was signed by NAWMP co-operating agencies to envelop third generation Heritage Marshes under the NAWMP umbrella. Work on the Thunder Creek Heritage Marsh progressed well and it will likely be officially opened in 1991.

The entire corporation made great strides in its first year, including substantial advances in program development. Work with government and non-government agencies to promote a conservation ethic and develop a spirit of co-operation in NAWMP activities will continue through the coming year.



THE BEAUTIFUL MARSH MARIGOLD IS ONLY ONE OF HUNDREDS OF PLANT SPECIES THAT DEPEND ON WETLANDS. EXAMPLES OF SASKATCHEWAN'S MOST OUTSTANDING WETLANDS ARE BEING PROTECTED THROUGH THE HERITAGE MARSH PROGRAM.

THE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR POSITION WAS CREATED TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLERICAL SUPPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GENERAL MANAGER, AND CORPORATION STAFF.

During the SWCC's formative months, the office administrator helped establish the core group of staff and located office space which met the criteria set out by the board members.

The office administrator is involved in a wide range of duties, from clerical, reception and administrative to assisting the controller in various accounting duties, providing budget projections and supervising the area office administrators.

AREA OFFICES

To date, three area office administrators have been hired by the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation in Humboldt, Saskatoon and Wadena.

The area office administrators report to the central office of the corporation and assist in the collection and preparation of information, as well as assist in the co-ordination of special events, such as tours, public information meetings, media interviews and trade shows. They also help link the corporation with North American Waterfowl Management Plan partner agency staff by performing administrative functions.



RED-WINGED BLACK BIRDS ARE ONE OF SEVERAL SPECIES THAT NEST AND BREED IN THE REEDS AND CATTAILS AROUND WETLANDS. IN SUMMER, THESE BIRDS EAT LARGE NUMBERS OF INSECTS AND HARASS CROWS AND OTHER AVIAN PREDATORS FROM WATERFOWL NESTS.

WHERE DO DUCKS LIKE TO NEST, HOW SUCCESSFUL ARE THEY AT NESTING IN DIFFERENT TYPES OF HABITAT AND WHAT ARE THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE WAYS OF PRODUCING THE BEST NESTING CONDITIONS? THESE ARE THE TYPES OF QUESTIONS THAT DRIVE THE BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAMS BY SWCC STAFF.

One of the first biological evaluation programs under the NAWMP was the Prairie Pothole Project in the R.M. of Antler in southeastern Saskatchewan. The objective of the Prairie Pothole Project is to measure the success of financial and program incentives to preserve waterfowl habitat on private land. In 1990, evaluation activities focussed on specific practices such as artificial nesting structures, predator-proof fences and planted dense nesting cover. Results showed that wire baskets were the most successful type of nesting structures, and that nest structures and predator-proof fences significantly improved success of duck nests. Duck populations and habitat conditions were monitored and provided quantitative evidence of the severe impact of the drought in southeastern Saskatchewan on the duck population. Information collected on the Prairie Pothole Project has helped shape plans for broader implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Another biological evaluation activity conducted in the Quill Lakes area involved measuring duck production from underseed clover, one of the land management options of the NAWMP. The underseed clover program involves the distribution of clover seed to farmers who seed it along with their cereal crop. The clover does not grow to any extent until the second year, when it replaces what would have traditionally been a fallow field. The clover not only provides nesting cover for ducks but also improves soil nutrients and enhances soil conservation. Results of the biological evaluation study revealed that ducks make greatest use of the clover as nesting cover in June after the clover has grown to a substantial height. The data collected from this study will be used in conjunction with information from other studies to evaluate the relative cost-effectiveness of various NAWMP land management practices and to guide future management efforts.

THIS WAS A YEAR OF TRANSITION FOR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SASKATCHEWAN WETLAND CONSERVATION CORPORATION. COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMS WERE TARGETTED MORE DIRECTLY AT LANDOWNERS IN KEY PROGRAM AREAS AND THEY HELPED IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF PROGRAM DELIVERY AGENCIES.

Communication activities are designed to encourage action and co-operation among government and non-government agencies, industry, resource managers and private landowners in implementing NAWMP programs. Communications also assist in achieving NAWMP international objectives, but are tailor-made to reflect Saskatchewan implementation processes and local activities and conditions.

Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation profile is maintained largely through communications support provided to programs carried out by implementation agencies.

Communications activities in 1989 consisted, to a large degree, of starting to build general public awareness of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) in Saskatchewan and beyond. The approach taken to achieve these goals was to concentrate efforts on activities around the province's NAWMP flagship, the Quill Lakes Project. The various land management options were also promoted among farmers in the Quill Lakes Project area.

With the first expansion of NAWMP activities beyond the Quill Lakes Project in 1990, communica-

tion attention also changed and expanded. General public awareness efforts were more closely limited to audiences within the province's borders and more attention was focussed on promoting NAWMP land management options.

During 1990, communications activity focussed on laying the groundwork for expanded program delivery in 1991. This included preparation of a draft communications plan, advertising campaigns in support of pilot land management programs, and two major events (the declaration of the Wadena office as a NAWMP International Centre and a visit to the Quill Lakes Project area by Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn). In addition, an awareness and attitude survey was conducted in August among landowners in four project areas. The survey showed a high level of awareness of the NAWMP, particularly in the Quill Lakes Project area. Landowners were quite positive toward the various land management options and the potential program take-up appears quite high.

These survey results, together with future similar surveys, will provide excellent direction for the communications program.

A U D I T O R ' S R E P O R T

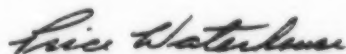
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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

We have audited the statement of financial position of Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation as at December 31, 1990 and the statements of revenues and expenditures and accumulated surplus and changes in financial position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the corporation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the corporation as at December 31, 1990 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles described in Note 2.



Chartered Accountants

March 5, 1991
Regina, Saskatchewan

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 1990

ASSETS

Current assets

Cash	\$ 369,298
Cash committed to current projects	373,407
Accounts receivable	29,769
Short term investments (Note 3)	250,000
Prepaid expenses	1,343
Inventory of fencing materials	20,647
	<u>1,044,464</u>

Fixed assets, at cost (Note 2)	55,828
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>16,650</u>
	39,178
	<u><u>\$ 1,083,642</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND PROVINCE'S EQUITY

Current liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 447,476
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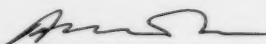
Province of Saskatchewan's Equity

Equity in fixed assets	39,178
Accumulated surplus	<u>596,988</u>
	<u>636,166</u>
	<u><u>\$ 1,083,642</u></u>

APPROVED BY THE BOARD



Director



Director

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS
FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF OPERATIONS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1990

REVENUE

Funding contributions	
Environmental Protection Fund	\$ 812,500
Canadian Wildlife Service	641,147
Wildlife Habitat Canada	19,911
	<u>1,473,558</u>
Other income	88,267
	<u>1,561,825</u>

EXPENDITURES

Biological evaluation	80,258
Communication	89,181
Fixed asset acquisitions	55,828
Payments to delivering partners	524,087
Provincial program co-ordination	215,483
	<u>964,837</u>

Excess of revenue over expenditures and accumulated surplus, end of year	<u>\$ 596,988</u>
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF OPERATIONS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1990

Cash provided by operating activities	
Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 596,988
Changes in non-cash operating items	
Accounts receivable	(29,769)
Prepaid expenses	(1,343)
Inventory	(20,647)
Accounts payable	447,476
	<u>395,717</u>
Increase in cash during the year and cash, end of year	<u>\$ 992,705</u>
Cash comprised of	
Cash	\$ 369,298
Cash committed to current projects	373,407
Short term investments	250,000
	<u>\$ 992,705</u>

SASKATCHEWAN WETLAND CONSERVATION CORPORATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 1990

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1. INCORPORATION OF SASKATCHEWAN WETLAND CONSERVATION CORPORATION

Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation was incorporated by Order-in-council December 21, 1989 under the Crown Corporations Act, 1978. The corporation's mandate under the incorporating order-in-council is to co-ordinate the delivery of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in Saskatchewan. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan was formally adopted on May 14, 1986 by the Federal Governments of Canada and the United States as a plan for conservation of internationally shared waterfowl resources.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This summary of significant accounting policies provides a description of the accounting methods and practices that have been used in the preparation of these financial statements.

General principles

The corporation has adopted the accrual basis of accounting.

Inventories

Inventories are carried at the lower of cost and estimated market value. Donated inventories are recorded as income and are valued at the estimated fair market value. During the year, \$20,647 of materials were donated to the corporation. All of these materials were on hand at year end.

Fixed assets

Fixed asset acquisitions are expensed during the year of purchase. To maintain accountability for these fixed assets, the cost, net of a charge for depreciation is reflected on the statement of financial position as an asset with an offsetting equity balance. Charges for depreciation are based on the declining-balance method at rates ranging from 20% to 30%.

3. SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS

In accordance with effective cash management practices, the corporation may from time to time invest in short term, interest bearing instruments. Interest earned on these investments is reported as revenue and is included in other income.

4. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Included in these financial statements are various revenue and expenditure amounts resulting from routine operating transactions conducted at prevailing market prices with various Saskatchewan Crown-controlled departments, agencies, and corporations with which the corporation is related.

Account balances resulting from these transactions are included in the statement of financial position and are settled on normal trade terms. Other accounts due to and from related parties and the terms of settlement are described separately in these financial statements and the notes thereto.

5. REPORTING ENTITY

Under the authority of Order-in-council No. 29/90 dated January 10, 1990, Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation holds responsibility to coordinate or account for the collection and disbursement of monies related to programs or activities undertaken in Saskatchewan pursuant to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. These financial statements report only those monies designated to be collected and distributed through the accounts of the corporation.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE A TIME TO REFLECT ON PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS. BUT WHEN WE SEE HOW FAR THE SASKATCHEWAN WETLAND CONSERVATION CORPORATION HAS COME IN ITS FIRST YEAR, IT MAKES THINKING OF FUTURE PLANS AND POSSIBILITIES EVEN MORE EXCITING.

In 1991 Ducks Unlimited Canada will expand Prairie Care programs in areas where they are now active, such as the Quill Lakes/Touchwood/Beaver Hills and the Allan/Tiger/Minichinas Hills. Prairie Care will also be launched in the Cut Knife Uplands, the Moose Mountain Uplands, the Pheasant Hills, and Missouri Coteau.

The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation will also expand its Nest Basket program beyond the Quill Lakes Project area.

The Thunder Creek Heritage Marsh is under construction and will likely be officially opened in 1991. Work will also begin on the Sucker Lake Complex.

In keeping with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan's co-operative nature, the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation will continue working with a variety of agencies to develop and implement policies and programs that will encourage sustainable development of the natural resources of soil and water, and the plants and creatures that depend on them.